

Macbeth Word Journal  
English G Block  
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## **WORD: NIGHT**

### **1st Use**

#### **Quotation:**

(Act 3 Scene 1 Lines 25 – 28)

As far, my lord, as will fill up the time  
'Twixt this and supper: go not my horse the better,  
I must become a borrower of the **night**  
For a dark hour or twain.

**Speaker:** Banquo

#### **Paraphrase:**

My lord, I think I am going to be riding far enough  
so that I will be able to come back for dinner.  
If my horse rides at a regular pace, I will be coming  
back in a few hours before sunset.

#### **Clarification:**

Banquo answers Macbeth that he is going on a horse ride before he comes back for the feast which Macbeth and Lady Macbeth will host at night.

#### **Conclusion:**

The word 'night' used in Macbeth connote negative meanings, such as fear, chaos, and darkness. However, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth seem to be the only ones using the word night containing those negative meanings. Here, Banquo accepts Macbeth's invitation to attend the dinner they are going to host at night. Banquo is totally unaware of Macbeth's plan to kill him. For Banquo, night is simply the time when he is going to the feast which he has promised with Macbeth.

### **2nd Use**

#### **Quotation:**

(Act 3 Scene 1 Lines 31 – 37)

We hear, our bloody cousins are bestow'd  
In England and in Ireland, not confessing  
Their cruel parricide, filling their hearers  
With strange invention: but of that to-morrow,  
When therewithal we shall have cause of state  
Craving us jointly. Hie you to horse: adieu,  
Till you return at **night**. Goes Fleance with you?

**Speaker:** Macbeth

#### **Paraphrase:**

We hear that the bloody murderers of Duncan Malcolm  
and Donalbain have gone to England and Ireland without

confessing their crime that they've killed their own father.  
They have been lying to their hosts. We will discuss further  
about the matter tomorrow which makes us feel uneasy.  
Get your horse. Good bye my friend until you return at night.  
Is Fleance joining you?

**Clarification:** Macbeth tells Banquo that they will discuss about the murderers of king Duncan which they think they are sons of Duncan Malcolm and Donalbain. Also he is making sure that Fleance is going with Banquo.

**Conclusion:**

Macbeth is worried about the prophecy which the Witches have made that although Banquo himself will not be the king, but he will beget the kings of Scotland. Here, Macbeth is trying to make sure that Banquo goes on a ride with his son Fleance so that Macbeth is able to kill both of them at the same time. Macbeth orders the three murderers to kill Macbeth and his son Fleance when they are on a ride. Here, the word 'night' is the time when evil things take place when Macbeth tries to kill Banquo. It could also be an irony because even though Macbeth knows that Banquo is never going to come back he asks Banquo to make sure he is coming back at night. The meaning of the word night is obviously different for Macbeth and Banquo; Banquo thinks it's the time when he is going to have a dinner with Macbeth while Macbeth thinks it's the time when he is killing Banquo and Fleance.

### 3rd Use

**Quotation:**

(3.1 142-144)

I'll call upon you straight. Abide within  
Exeunt [Murderers]  
It is concluded. Banquo, thy soul's flight,  
If it find heaven, must find it out tonight.

**Speaker:** Macbeth

**Paraphrase:**

Stay inside the castle. I'll call you very soon.  
Finally this problem is resolved. Banquo,  
if your soul has to go to the heaven, that will  
happen tonight.

**Clarification:** After telling the murderers to kill Banquo, he is saying that Banquo is going to die tonight.

**Conclusion:**

Again when Macbeth uses the word 'night', it refers to the time when cruel things happen. Now Macbeth is fully ready to kill Banquo and his son Fleance. There seems to be a change in Macbeth that he does not feel guilty about committing a crime anymore. Before making his mind to kill Duncan, Macbeth thought over and over again whether to kill him or not. Also he has told Lady Macbeth that 'we will proceed no further in this business.' (1.7 32) However, he does not even hesitate when he tries to kill Banquo; he tries to get rid of any obstacles that threaten him to the throne. He directly states that if his soul needs to go to the heaven, tonight is the night. The use of the word 'night' here is also when evil, cruel events happen.

#### **4th Use**

##### **Quotation:**

(3.2 19-24)

Ere we will eat our meal in fear and sleep  
In the affliction of these terrible dreams  
That shake us **nightly**: better be with the dead,  
Whom we, to gain our peace, have sent to peace,  
Than on the torture of the mind to lie  
In restless ecstasy. Duncan is in his grave;  
After life's fitful fever he sleeps well.

**Speaker:** Macbeth

##### **Paraphrase:**

We are going to have every meal in fear; we will suffer from a series of nightmares which will make us terrified dreadfully every night. I'd rather be dead than racked in agitated thoughts worrying about maintaining power. Duncan sleeps tranquilly in his grave after undergoing through life's difficulties, who have sent to peace as we have killed to gain our own peace.

##### **Clarification:**

This is a conversation between Lady Macbeth and Macbeth; Macbeth enters and tells his wife that he is feared of other people in the castle such as Malcolm(king Duncan's son) and Fleance(According to the prophecy of three witches, Banquo's children will eventually seize the throne) who could possibly take the throne away from him. He explains how they are going to suffer from nightmares which result from their feeling of dread.

##### **Conclusion:**

Here the use of the word 'night' seems to have a slightly different meaning from the previous ones; the meaning of the word 'nightly' in this quote is dreadfully. Although Macbeth is the current king of Scotland, he does not feel comfortable; he is afraid if someone will take his position. He mentions that they have scorched the snake but not killed it. (3.2 15) Here, the term 'nightly' literally refers to every night, but this word could also mean painfully or dreadfully.

#### **5th Use**

##### **Quotation:**

(3.2 42-47)

There's comfort yet; they are assailable;  
Then be thou jocund: ere the bat hath flown  
His cloister'd flight, ere to black Hecate's summons  
The shard-borne beetle with his drowsy hums  
Hath rung **night**'s yawning peal, there shall be done  
A deed of dreadful note.

**Speaker:** Macbeth

##### **Paraphrase:**

That's consolable. It's true that they still can be killed. So be delightful my darling. Before the bat flies to the castle and beetle hums to inform us that it's nighttime, a dreadful deed will be taken place.

**Clarification:** Macbeth is ready to commit another crime after killing Duncan; he trying to get rid of other strong powers that could threaten the throne of Macbeth, Banquo and Fleance. And Macbeth tells his plan of the night to his wife.

**Conclusion:**

Macbeth tells his wife that a dreadful deed will be done, which means that he is going to kill Banquo and Fleance. Since he is prepared to commit another crime, the word 'night' here means, again, the time when evil things take place. This word could also mean chaos, because this situation could be a chaos if three murderers attack Banquo at the same time and Fleance will run away as soon as the second murderer put out the light.

**6th Use:**

**Quotation:**

(3.2 48-50)

Be innocent of the knowledge, dearest chuck,  
Till thou applaud the deed. Come, seeling **night**,  
Scarf up the tender eye of pitiful day.

**Speaker:** Macbeth

**Paraphrase:**

It's better to be unaware of the knowledge until after  
the deed is completed when you can praise it.  
Come night and swindle the moral, decent day.

**Clarification:** Lady Macbeth is curious what Macbeth is going to do and asks him about it, but Macbeth responds by saying that she should not know about it until after the deed is completely done.

**Conclusion:**

Here Macbeth awaits for nighttime to come so that he could finish the deed. The transformation in Macbeth is also evident in this quote; Macbeth plans to kill Banquo before Lady Macbeth tries to do something about it to keep their position and tells his wife to be patient about the plan. By his saying 'scarf up the tender eye of pitiful day,' it's noticeable that he became completely corrupted by his desire to maintain power. Therefore, the use of the word 'night' is the time when the evil things happen, when the murderers of Macbeth is going to kill Banquo.

**7th Use:**

**Quotation:**

(3.2 55-60)

Good things of day begin to droop and drowse;  
While **night's** black agents to their preys do rouse.  
Thou marvell'st at my words: but hold thee still;  
Things bad begun make strong themselves by ill.  
So, prithee, go with me.

**Speaker:** Macbeth

**Paraphrase:**

The kindhearted creatures of the day begin to drowse,  
while the night's evil predators wake up to search their prey.  
You seem to be so astonished at my words, but please hold

your questions for now. For bad deeds beget more of them.  
Please, come with me.

**Clarification:** Lady Macbeth wants to know what Macbeth is going to do at night and asks him about it, but Macbeth responds by saying that she should not know about it until after the deed is completely done.

**Conclusion:**

This quote defines the another possible meaning of the word night by saying 'night's black agents,' which means that the night is the time when evil spirits rise and commit bad deeds, looking for their prey since the word black contains the meaning evil, bad, immoral, and foul. Also still the night here refers to time when Banquo is going to be executed.

**8th Use**

**Quotation:**

(3.4 123-127)

It will have blood; they say, blood will have blood:  
Stones have been known to move and trees to speak;  
Augurs and understood relations have  
By magot-pies and choughs and rooks brought forth  
The secret'st man of blood. What is the night?

**Speaker:** Macbeth

**Paraphrase:**

Blood will have blood; the dead will revenge eventually.

Stones move and trees speak, to give guilty men justice. The signs by crows and magpies tell us that the murderers have exposed. How late at night is it right now?

**Clarification:** Macbeth is expecting that the murderers have been appeared at night and killed Banquo.

**Conclusion:**

Here Macbeth assumes that the murderers have killed Banquo and Fleance for it is late at night. Macbeth says that the mysterious signs made by magpies and crows at night indicate that the murder has occurred. Again, Macbeth directly shows the meaning of the word 'night,' when crows and magpies appear, which signifies that Banquo has killed. For crows are known as the bird which bring evil omen, this could also indicate that the word 'night' has negative meanings and it refers to the time when cruel events happen.

**9th Use**

**Quotation:**

(3.5 20-25)

I am for the air; this **night** I'll spend  
Unto a dismal and a fatal end:  
Great business must be wrought ere noon:  
Upon the corner of the moon  
There hangs a vaporous drop profound;  
I'll catch it ere it come to ground

**Speaker:** Hecate (the goddess of witchcraft)

**Paraphrase:**

Tonight I will be working to make something happen which will bring an fatal end; I have a lot of great business must be done before noon. I will catch the vaporous droplet hanging on the corner of the moon before it comes to the ground.

**Clarification:** This is when Hecate, the goddess of witchcraft, scolds the Witches for interfering in the business of Macbeth without asking her. She claims that she is going to be in charge of the case of Macbeth.

**Conclusion:**

The quote by Hecate also indicates that night is the time when evil things happen because she says she is planning on making something horrible happen which would bring a fatal end at 'night' and it must be done before noon.

**10th Use**

**Quotation:**

(3.6 34 - 38)

Give to our tables meat, sleep to our **nights**,  
Free from our feasts and banquets bloody knives,  
Do faithful homage and receive free honours:  
All which we pine for now.

**Speaker:** Lord

**Paraphrase:**

Please bring food on our tables, bring calmness back to our nights, free from our feasts and banquets from brutal murders, do faithful deeds, and receive free honors. That's what we all long for now.

**Clarification:** During the conversation between the lord and Lennox, the lord tells Lennox that Macduff has fled to England to join Malcolm to prepare for a perfect plan to overthrow Macbeth. They hope this would bring peace back in the land of Scotland.

**Conclusion:**

The meaning of the word 'night' seems to be different for the enemies of Macbeth. The difference between Macbeth and his enemies is that the enemies just want peace during the night (when the evil things take place) while Macbeth still consider night as the time when he commits all the bad deeds.

**FINAL CONCLUSION:**

The dictionary definition of the word 'night' is the period of darkness from sunset to sunrise. People like Lennox and Lady Macbeth simply use this word to say good night, but according to the quotes by Macbeth, Hecate, and the lord, the word 'night' contain deeper meanings. The use of the word 'night' in act 3 is mostly by Macbeth. Macbeth uses this word to refer to the time when Banquo is going to be killed by three murderers who he had hired. This means that night is the time when bad deeds are done, for example, murder. The evidence of this is shown in lines like 'by magot-pies and choughs and rooks brought forth the secret'st man of blood,' because crows are known as the birds which bring evil omen, this could indicate that the word 'night' has negative meanings and it refers to the time when cruel events happen. Also it's noticeable that he became completely corrupted by his desire to maintain power since he does not feel guilty about murdering someone as he did when he killed king Duncan, as mentioned in the quote where he tells Lady Macbeth that he will tell his plans after the deed is done. Even though he does not feel guilty about murdering someone, he seems to be afraid that someone would take

his power away from him. This is mentioned in the quote 'ere we will eat our meal in fear and sleep in the affliction of these terrible dreams that shake us nightly,' where the use of the word night is painfully or dreadfully. In short, the meaning of the word 'night' in Act 3 could be fear and the time when evil things happen (when Banquo is killed). The most significant fact in Act 3 is that Macbeth seem to be even more corrupted by his desire for power as he does not feel guilty of committing a crime, he just fears if someone would take his position.